

## EIGHTH AVENUE HEAR REBURNED.

"Merry Maiden" Drops Cigarette at Miner's—  
\$200,000 Loss.

Miner's Eighth Avenue Theatre, on Eighth Avenue, between Twenty-fifth and Twenty-sixth streets, was destroyed by fire last night. The blaze was not under control until nearly 3 o'clock this morning.

The "Merry Maiden" burlesque show had given a long performance and the audience had been out of the building about fifteen minutes when the fire started.

It was caused by a lighted cigarette which one of the chorus girls dropped while smoking in a dressing-room on the twenty-sixth street side of the building.

The theatre building was an old one four stories high and was situated in about the middle of the block on Eighth Avenue. In the rear was an L-shaped extension that extended to Twenty-sixth street.

Chorus Girls Fled in Panic.

After the fire started the chorus girls and employees of the theatre fled to the street in panic. It is believed that all of them got out safely.

Many of the girls were only half clad when they reached the street and were weeping hysterically.

The fire spread with amazing rapidity, eating its way from the dressing-rooms in the extension to the stage through to the front part of the theatre and then through the roof.

The fire was spectacular in the extreme, and attracted thousands of New Year's celebrators.

From the theatre building the flames jumped to two three-story dwellings on Twenty-sixth street, and damaged them badly.

Dogs Discovered Fire.

Two little dogs played a prominent part in the discovery of the fire. Frank Hammi, the watchman, was walking through the building after the audience had departed, when his two pet dogs, Nell and Sport, ran through a door leading from a box to the stage and began barking furiously. Hammi followed them and saw that fire had made a big inroad on the stage properties and was reaching upward to the roof.

On the top floor of the four-story tenement to the south of the theatre building were Mrs. Kate Kelly and her three children. Not only was the entire theatre

into furnace and out, like Shadrach

STOKER NOT MUCH WORSE  
OFF THAN BIBLICAL HERO.

John Stratton, of the St. Paul, however, did not waste time over the coals.

Plunging headforemost through a fire door in the boiler compartment aboard the steamship St. Paul, John Stratton, forty-five years old, a stoker, narrowly escaped being burned to death this morning.

It was just before the big liner left her dock for Southampton, Stratton, with his body bare to the waist, took up a sheaf of coal and with a quick toss threw it into the furnace.

His foot slipped upon the smooth iron floor and the impetus of his movement toward the furnace shot him, his right arm outstretched, head first into the glowing bed of live coals.

For the wink of an eye he hung there. But the height of the door dropped back out of harm's way.

He was severely burned about the head and shoulders and his right arm injured. The ship's surgeon dressed his wounds and he was removed to the Hudson Street Hospital.

\$75,000 LOSS IN  
DOWNTOWN FIRE.

Bureau hose line and the high wind from the North River made a blaze at Nos. 162 to 166 Bank street this afternoon a most difficult job for the firemen.

After these alarms the department refrained to check the spread of the flames, but the building in which the fire started was completely gutted.

The loss is estimated at \$75,000. The building was occupied by P. C. Langlois, a furniture dealer, the New York Store Picture Company and Fischer Brothers, dealers in woods. No one was in it to-day.

GIRL CONFESSES,  
ACCUSING CORWIN.

HE RECENTLY CAME INTO A  
FORTUNE OF \$800,000.

After six days of relentless questioning, little Miss Roberta Menges broke down last night and told all that had happened while she was in the company of Huey Corwin for the four days preceding Christmas.

Corwin, when he attacked his majority last spring, came into possession of \$800,000 left to him by his father, once the City Treasurer of Brooklyn, and has since then been doing his best to spend it.

On the girl's story, Magistrate Dooley issued a warrant for Corwin and he was arrested at his home, No. 100 Pacific street. His bail was fixed at \$100,000 and he was furnished by P. J. Montague, a liquor dealer.

The girl's father, R. E. Menges, a horseman at Sheepshead Bay, says that he will spend every dollar he has to make Corwin pay the penalty for taking away a girl of only sixteen years.

The girl's confession says that on or about "Tues" Island on Sunday night, Dec. 22, was followed by a trip to Chinatown and to the Tenderloin, and that she stayed for the rest of the night at the flat of Miss Marie Courtney, an actress, unemployed, at No. 4 West Sixty-fifth street.

## FATAL FIRE IN FLAT-HOUSE.

One man was perhaps fatally burned, two women were seriously injured and half a dozen families were driven from their beds by a fire at 3:30 this morning in the flat-house at No. 188 Second Avenue.

The fire started in the basement and then spread up to the butcher shop owned by B. Waxbaum, on the first floor. The fire burned fiercely and the smoke, flames and hot air went up the stairway, filling the halls and nearly suffocating the tenants, who were trying to retreat to the roof.

Peter Graham, his wife, daughter and several boarders occupied the second floor of the building. They were aroused by Charles Witzel, of No. 321 East Fifty-ninth street, who had discovered smoke coming from a basement window and had turned in an alarm, and then gone through the house shouting.

Witzel had gone almost to the roof when he heard screams below him. He returned to the second floor, where he found Thomas Cummings, fifty years old, a boarder in the Graham home, lying on the stairway. The flames were all around him and he was being rapidly roasted.

Witzel seized Cummings and partially dragged and partly carried him to the roof, and thence into the house at No. 160, where he was attended by an ambulance surgeon, and was then taken to Flower Hospital. His hands and face are badly burned and he may die.

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## JOSEF HOFMANN'S MUSIC LESSONS TO READERS OF THE EVENING WORLD.



STRIKING A DIFFICULT  
OCTAVE

Learn to Appreciate the Music You Are Playing and to Play It So that the Listener Will Appreciate It, Is the Advice of this Brilliant Young Master.

Josef Hofmann, the brilliant young master of the piano, is teaching readers of The Evening World how to appreciate and play good music.

He was the favorite pupil of the great Rubinstein and he is going to the poorest New Yorker at his own fireside what many of the musically ambitious have paid thousands of dollars and travelled thousands of miles to learn.

His fifth lesson is a summary of the advice he has given and several additional points are made.

### LESSON V.

BY JOSEF HOFMANN.

My previous lessons I devoted chiefly to telling how to practice properly, because this is the chief requisite in learning to play well. But it should always be remembered that the equipment of a perfect technique is merely a means to an end.

Do you know that you can play a piece of music with a perfect technique and still not play it well? Yes, you can.

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The ultimate object in practicing a piece must always be to play it with a perfect technique and still not play it well. Yes, you can.

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## DAMAGE DONE BY THE GALE.

Shipping Delayed by the Force of the Wind.

COLDEST DAY OF WINTER.

Trees Uprooted and Fences Blown Down in Long Island Towns.

WEATHER FORECAST.

Forecast for the thirty-six hours ending 8 P. M. Thursday, Jan. 2, for New York and vicinity: Fair, continued cold to-night; Thursday fair, not quite so cold; light to fresh northerly winds.

The gale that ushered in the new year continued unabated throughout the day. Shipping was delayed to the force of the wind and considerable damage was done along the Long Island coast. There was a bite to the wind too that served to remind that this is probably the coldest day of the winter thus far.

At Bath Beach, Fort Hamilton, Coney Island and Rockaway tremors were blown down and fences were blown down today. At Gravesend the partially completed two-story frame dwelling of Charles Eckerson was blown down, falling upon Eckerson the base of his savings for ten years. Almost a score of sailing vessels bound out were compelled to anchor in Gravesend Bay, and residents of Sea Gate feared for the safety of their homes.

The Red Star liner Zealand looked like an iceberg as it came up the bay this morning. The big ship was coated with ice from stem to stern, the result of a tempestuous voyage.

On Christmas Day the passengers were so ill that very few of them appeared at table and it became necessary to abandon the ordinary Christmas festivities aboard ship. Another disastrous incident of the day was the death of two of the steerage passengers, a woman and a girl. They were buried at sea.

## MORGAN'S BIG NEW MERGE

Reported He Will Combine Westinghouse and General Electric Companies.

Wall street hears that J. Pierpont Morgan has practically completed the negotiations by which the General Electric Company and the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company will be consolidated under a community of interest plan. The merger is expected to be officially announced within a few days.

The stock of the General Electric Company yesterday went up to 28 1/2, a rise of twenty points within a few weeks. The Westinghouse shares are not usually active on this market, but they have recently been traded in to a considerable extent, and the price has advanced steadily on comparatively small transactions.

The activity of the Westinghouse shares was what first attracted attention to the proposed consolidation. General Electric, which is always referred to as a Morgan concern, was formed in 1892. It was a combination of Edison General Electric and the Thomson-Houston Electric Company. It has a capital of \$24,000,000 and a funded debt of \$10,000,000.

The Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company is an older corporation, which has grown gradually into a position of importance in the electrical industry. It has a capital stock of \$10,000,000 and a funded debt of nearly \$5,000,000.

Since the last annual report was issued, it has been decided to increase the capital stock. The total amount of common stock authorized by the company is \$20,000,000.

This is indeed a happy new year for the employees of J. P. Morgan & Co. Every attaché of the banking house from the highest salaried man to the office boy, is richer today than he was yesterday, for a firm that in some instances is equal to 10 per cent of its yearly pay in no instance fails to pay what he has earned during the past year.

Mr. Morgan decided to make his annual distribution this year larger than ever before because of the extraordinary prosperity during the year. He decided to distribute \$100,000, and this amount he set aside for gifts to his employees.

The men who have been with the company the longest receive the greater portion of the money.

MISSING MAN AN HEIR.

CHICAGO, Jan. 1.—William Jackson, a native of Morrisville, N. J., who was last heard of by his relatives about two years ago, was with a theatrical company in Chicago, has fallen heir to an estate of about \$100,000 by the death of a sister in Arkansas.

A search for him is being made by Collins & Fletcher, attorneys of Chicago.

## KERN'S AIDE IN BIG BAIL.

Bertha Pollion Tells in Court of Valet's Actions After Jewel Robbery.

HER ADMIRER FOR YEARS

Proposes an Elopement with Her, but His Crime Raises Barrier Between Them.

Proposes an Elopement.

Bertha Pollion, the woman with whom Edward Kern, the 1901 Jeweler, was charged with robbing the Jeweler's store, told the Jefferson County Court this morning and held in \$50,000 bail a charge of knowingly receiving stolen goods.

Today she was tried under her proper name, a woman who had been arrested as Mary Young.

Wearing a long gray gown and a dark shawl, she was a very much distressed figure. Her eyes were red from much weeping, and indications for her was not new. She admitted she had known Kern in Switzerland, where he had been a valet in a hotel, and she had met him in New York.

They went together to Bergen's jewelry shop at Sixth Avenue and Twenty-ninth street, where she worked for Mr. Mrs. Tiedeman's son-in-law, and he had brought her, and he pledged for \$5 a pair of diamond sleeve links.

Sunday afternoon Kern met her at a restaurant at Third Avenue and Port Street. She hurried to the hotel, and when she came back, she found Kern waiting for her. She told him that she was not going to marry him, and he said that he would wait for her.

At his detention she wrote a note declaring that she was not going to marry him, and she told him that she was not going to marry him, and she told him that she was not going to marry him.

She was left alone in the hotel until late in the evening, when Kern returned and told her of his plans. Monday morning he went out and bought himself a new suit of clothes, but having no money, he was forced to get away from the hotel without any money.

He went in with him a dress suit and containing three of Mr. Tiedeman's suits, a quantity of fine linen and \$10,000 worth of the stolen jewelry.

When he got to the hotel, he found Kern waiting for him. She told him that she was not going to marry him, and he said that he would wait for her.